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Capitol Comments

BY DAN DANIEL
FIFTH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

WASHINGTON - January 18 - Many people believe, and your Congressman is among them, that there are things which can be done to alleviate the dual aspects of shrinking petroleum supplies and rising costs. These have been discussed in previous statements. In addition to legislative initiatives, there are other areas where action could properly be taken. In a nutshell, there are things we might have done, but didn't. And there are things we still can do, if we only will.

Before discussing options, it is well to look at an aspect which is often ignored. The position of the United States appears to be one of helplessness in confronting the oil exporting nations. If we speak, it is to plead. If we plan, the plans are defensive. At no time is there ever any mention of our strengths, or potential strengths, which should and could be utilized.

The U.S. market for foreign oil represents about 20 percent of OPEC exports. We are OPEC's largest customer. Any person in business or commerce will tell you that when a buyer of that size speaks, the seller is inclined to listen. In addition, the U.S. market is important to the export sales of other industrialized countries. You don't need a degree in economics to know what this country's financial ruin would do to these markets and thus to other nations which need funds to purchase OPEC oil. We are the leading supplier of high technology and managerial talent to OPEC and to many other nations of the world. Both OPEC and its customers would suffer if these things were not available. But our strengths do not rest solely in trade.

This country offers large and secure opportunities for capital investment, and while many of the following are questionable, we are a leader in international loans, loan guarantees and aid. In fact, the United States is so attractive to foreign dollars that some people are beginning to worry about the heavy involvement of foreign capital in American enterprise.

There are three other areas which are sometimes cited as strengths, but it may be dangerous to depend on them. This country is home base for five of the seven major ultinational oil companies. I am not persuaded it is in our national interest to inrude in their business transactions. It is appropriate to let them know just what our national interest is, and how far we are willing to go in insuring it. Secondly, the point has been made that we can provide security to other nations. Certainly we can, whether we will may be something else again. But is is a good bargaining chip. And finally, a General Accounting Office study of the subject states that "we are a world leader in international political relationships with the ability to broker disputes even where our own interests are not directly engated". recent history shows , our enthusiasm often exceeds our capability.

In any discussion of this subject, the point must be made that our government has been grossly negligent in standing silent while the oil exporting nations flagrantly ignore international law. Prices are raised and supplies withheld, even though there are perfectly legal contracts in existence, many of long duration. Our unwillingness to speak out is bad enough; the message to other suppliers of commodities can only be that we are pushovers.

The report further recommends we encouraged development of oil sources in non-OPEC areas of the world. There is both opportunity and danger in this. Opportunity, for there are indications that all world reserves have by no means been found and explored, especially in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Danger, for we may be developing new members for OPEC in the process.

The GAO study recommends "exploring bilateral relationships with particular oil producing countries, with appropriate incentives and disincentives". That's hightone language for putting the pressure where it hurts. In a sense, many of the OPEC nations have two tigers by the tails. They rely on us for capital investment and development expertise, and also for sophisticated military weapons. This is a message which should not be too hard to get across.

It will come as no surprise that both the Department of Energy and the Department of State take exception to the above findings.

All discussions of solutions omit what I believe is one of our greatest opportunities for turning things around. It is not our strength, it is an OPEC strength - one we have never explored or exploited.

With some notable exceptions, the countries of the Middle East, where most of the oil and all of the leadership for OPEC rests, are absolutely opposed to communism. Most of them are monarchies, and their leaders want to keep them that way. They believe they can rely on us to keep Russia at bay, and we have taken no steps to impress upon them that if we sink in a sea of foreign debt they will be left with no major nation between them and communism's goal of world-wide domination. it is time to remind them that if they want to stay in the game, they will have to ante up.

MIGHTY FOUR 4-H CLUB

On January 10, 1978, the Mighty Four 4-H Club held their meeting at the Extension Office. The meeting was called to order by our president, David Caldwell. The first thing on the agenda was the past Share-the-Fun program, which was a great success. Members from the club who participated got back their score sheets and judges' comments on their particular act. Public speaking is coming up next month, so we discussed possible speech subjects. Future plans for an inter-state exchange with Nebraska were also talked about briefly. Record Books are also a big thing this month. An Achievement or Record Book is the only way a 4-H'er can win a trip to National 4-H Club Congress, which is held in Chicago. Mr. Sweet stressed the importance of having a complete, neat, and accurate book. The deadline for turning them in is January 30.

The meeting was adjourned.

Allen Smith, Reporter

1977 Forest Fire Summary

The number of forest fires in Southside Virginia's timberlands has been low this year. The number of fires was a third less than the number in 1976 but over the 5 year average number of 132 fires per year.

The Farmville District of the Division of Forestry, covering eleven counties in this area, has had 210 fires which burned 772 forested acres, compared to 308 fires covering 11,741 forested acres in 1976.

Forest Wardens who enforce the forest fire laws reported only 30 violations of the spring 4 P.m. Burning Law. Cooperation from the public in reporting fires and a quick attack by volunteer fire departments, forest wardens and volunteers, kept the average size of the fires to a low figure of 3.7 acres. Volunteer fire departments extinguished many fires before they endangered forest land.

Amelia County had 10 fires burning 24 acres. Amherst County had 26 fires burning 48 acres. Appomattox County had 16 fires burning 19 acres. Bedford County had 25 fires burning 39 acres. Buckingham had 18 fires burning 145 acres. Campbell had 40 fires burning 68 acres. Charlotte had 13 fires burning 10 acres. Cumberland had 23 fires burning 201 acres. Lunenburg had 20 fires burning 189 acres. Nottoway County had 5 fires burning 6 acres and Prince Edward County had 14 fires burning 23 acres.

Cont'l Telephone Customers Will Save $5 Million On Tax Reduction

Continental Telephone announced today that a reduction in the federal excise tax on telephone bills will save its customers an estimated $5 million in 1978.

Beginning January 1, the tax dropped from 5 percent to 4 percent and will continue to decline at one percentage point in a year until 1982, when it will be eliminated.

Total savings to customers served by all telephone systems is estimated at $360 million, based on estimates of what they would have paid in 1978 at the 5 percent rate and what they wil pay at the new 4 percent rate.

Additionally, the President has signed H.R. 3373. This bill removes the application of federal excise tax to the state and local taxes included in telephone company billings, thus eliminating the tax-on-tax situation previously imposed.

The excise tax was first imposed by Congress during World War I as a temporary measure. Although repealed briefly after the war, it was reinstituted during the depression and has continued ever since at rates as high as 15 percent on local service and 25 percent on long distance calls. From 1954 to 1971 it stood at 10 percent. Last year, the tax cost Continental customers $25 million.

Continental serves 2.5 million telephones in the United States, Canada and the Caribbean and is the nation's third largest independent telephone system.

FANCY FLATS
IKE WAS THE ANCIENT GREEK WINGED GODDESS OF VICTORY.
HERCULES WAS THE ANCIENT GREEK HERO OF MYTHOLOGY NOTED FOR HIS ENDURING STRAIN
2
1
3
4
GAMED FOR BOTH GODDESS AND HERO IS THE U.S. ARMY'S NIKE-HERCULES MISSILE. TODAY, MEN AND WOMEN MAY QUALIFY FOR TRAINING AS NIKE-HERCULES FIRE CONTROL MECHANICS!

The Pastor Speaks

Our world today is highly motivated by the visual effect - the picture, the image. This is used to sell everything from soap to rock music. It is all based on the accepted principle that "a picture is worth a thousand words." In other words, it would take many words to express what can be seen quickly in one picture. With a lot of pictures in succession, just think how much you can say!

Jesus was a master of the visual. He could create images in the mind with the use of a few words. His parables are very brief, but based on the images he has created in the listeners have come sermons, plays, stories, movies, and so on. In only one sentence, look at the image Jesus gives: "The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value went and sold all that he had and bought it." (Mt. 13:45)

We might be so bold and say that in this one sentence Jesus has expressed what is essential to a meaningful life. What is of most value for you that you will give all you have to get it? And once you have it, what do you have? The richest treasures in life come at a high price. The greatest good will come at the sacrifice of lesser goods. That fits with the teaching we get as children that anything worth anything is worth working for. It always impresses me when someone of average means will save to have one item of worth rather than squander quickly on foolish trash.

When Jesus speaks of the one pearl of great value, tie that in with his other teaching that to follow Jesus means giving up. "For what will it profit a man, if he gains the whole worth, and forfeits his life." (Mt. 16:26)

We are very busy these days buying and getting our strings of pearls, the material things to impress others, and are forfeiting the one pearl of great value. That pearl is the soul that knows peace, and only we finally know what we must trade to get it.

P. Edward Leonard, Jr., Minister, Memorial United Methodist Church, Appomattox

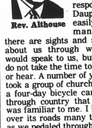
THE BIBLE SPEAKS

BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE

THE SILENT VOICES

Lesson for January 29, 1978

Background Scripture: Psalms 8; 19; 104.
Devotional Reading: Psalms 8



Rev. Althouse

In one of the plays about Joan of Arc there is a scene in which Joan and the Dauphin are discussing the "voices" which Joan hears at times. "Why don't the voices come to me?" the Dauphin demands. "I am the king." "They do come to you, Sire," Joan answers, "but you do not take the time to hear them."

Joan's response to the Dauphin might easily apply to many of us: there are sights and sounds all about us through which God would speak to us, but often we do not take the time to either see or hear. A number of years ago I took a group of church youths on a four-day bicycle camping trip through country that I thought was familiar to me. I had driven over its roads many times. Yet, as we pedaled through this countryside it seemed that I was seeing it for the first time. Always before I had sped by in my car, but now I was going slow enough to really see.

The Psalmist tells us that there are many voices in nature that tell of the glory of God the Creator. But they are voices, for the most part, without sounds: "There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world" (Psalms 19:3,4). The creation about us can speak to us without words or sounds and still reach the depths of our hearts.

Stand out under a star-filled sky some night and "listen" to what that twinkling host is saying to you. There will be no sounds issuing forth from the inky depths of space, but there is a message for the person who is receptive, who will take the time to open his or her life to it. Stand and look over a vast prairie carpeted with grain and there will be soundless voices speaking to the inner depths of our being.

More than gold

The writer of Psalms 19 heard other voices as well. When he considered the law of God, the moral goodness and order which God had given to Israel, he heard another kind of voice or voices. Whereas the voices of nature spoke of God the Creator, he found the voices of law speaking of God the Good and Holy. Speaking of God's laws, the psalmist exalts: "More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb" (19:10).

People need to listen to both kinds of voices, not just one or the other. We need to listen to the voices of nature and feel that sense of grandeur and might that are reflected in creation. But we need also to listen to the voices of — God's will and law so that we might experience anew the sense of security that comes in encountering and worshipping a God of moral perfection.

Are you listening?

(Based on outlines copyrighted by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Released by Community Press Service.)

Heart attack strikes anytime, any place. Too often, victims wait for hours before seeking help. Don't delay — half of all heart attack victims who die do so before they reach the hospital. Know the warning signals and act promptly when they occur. It could save your life. Ask your Heart Association.

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS
BIDDING FOR RODENT CONTROL MEASURES

Sealed bids will be received at the Lynchburg District Office of the Virginia Department of Highways and Transportation in Lynchburg, Virginia, until, but not later than 10:00 A.M. on Monday, January 30, 1978, and publicly opened and read for furnishing the following services and materials.

Rodent Control Measures in accordance with the specifications covering the area of the entire Lynchburg District of the Virginia Department of Highways and Transportation, including the counties of Amherst, Appomattox, Buckingham, Campbell, Charlotte, Cumberland, Halifax, Nelson, Pittsylvania, and Prince Edward, for the period beginning February 6, 1978 and ending December 31, 1978.

Single Application - (A unit is defined as any single structure designated to be treated.)
$..... - per unit for baiting for rodents
$..... - per unit for baiting for rodents and dusting for ectoparasites.

Submit the bid in triplicate on official, bidding proposal forms and attach a Certificate of Insurance. For further information or for bidding proposal forms, contact Mr. R. N. Power at the Virginia Department of Highways and Transportation, Post Office Box 11649, Lynchburg, Virginia 24506, or telephone 528-6074.

Employees of the Virginia Department of Highways and Transportation are not eligible.

F. T. Anstey
District Right of Way Engineer
Department of Highways & Transportation
Post Office Box 11649
Lynchburg, Virginia 24506

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Monte Carlo Landau Coupe - Black W/Black Vinyl Top - Red Vinyl Bench Seats - Cruise Control - Tilt Steering Wheel - AM Radio - W/Tape Player - 18,000 Miles - Like New

1977 CHEVROLET
Monte Carlo Super Coupe - Brown W/Buckskin 50/50 Knit Cloth Seats - AM/FM Radio - Air Conditioned - Sports Mirrors - Like New

1975 CHEVROLET
Monte Carlo Landau Coupe - Mahogany W/Mahogany Vinyl Top - White Vinyl Seats - AM/FM Radio - power Door Locks - Air Conditioned

1977 CHEVROLET
Nova Concours - 4 Door Sedan - Firethorn - Buckskin - Vinyl Top - Buckskin Vinyl Knotchback Seat - Cruise Control - AM Radio - Automatic - Power Steering - Only 4,000 Miles

1975 CHEVROLET
Capriee - 4 Door - Hard Top - Blue W/Blue Vinyl Top - Blue Cloth Seats - Air Conditioned - Power Windows - Power Door Locks - Power Seat Cruise Control - Low Mileage

1976 CHEVROLET
Capriee - 4 Door Sedan - Red WBlack Vinyl Top - Black Knit Cloth Seats - Cruise Control - Automatic - Power Steering - Air Conditioned

1972 OLDSMOBILE
Cutlass Supreme Coupe - Silver W/Black Vinyl Top - Green Cloth Seats - Automatic - Power Steering - Air Conditioned - Rally Wheels - Low Mileage - W/Factory Tape Player

1974 CHEVROLET
Monte Carlo - S. Coupe - Cream W/Buckskin Vinyl Seats - Rally Wheels - Cruise Control - AM/FM Radio - One Owner

1977 CHEVROLET
Silverado - 4 WD Pickup - Cordova Brown/Buckskin - Vinyl Seats - Power Steering - Rally Wheels - AM/FM Radio - One Local Owner

★ TRUCKS ★

1977 DODGE
Pickup - Black W/Beige - Vinyl Interior - V-8 - Automatic - Power Steering - Power Brakes - AM Radio - Aluminum Wheels - Like New

1976 CHEVROLET
LUV- Green WSaddle Interior - Automatic - Air Conditioned - AM Radio

1977 CHEVROLET
Silverado - 4 WD - Pickup - Silver and Mahogany W/Red Vinyl Seats - Automatic - Power Steering - Sliding Rear Window - Chome Step Bumper - Cruise Control - Rally Wheels - Tachometer

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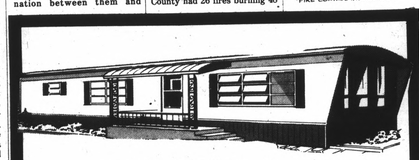
Moses Street — Appomattox



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THE BAD WINTER SNOWS aren't a hazard to everyone. It seems that Johnny Sligh from Vera is enjoying being pulled on the saucer sled by his German Sheppard dog, "Lucky".

Fidelity American Announces Highest Annual Earnings In Company's History

LYNCHBURG - Jan. 20 - Fidelity American Bankshares, Inc. today announced record annual earnings for the Virginia multi-bank holding company. In reviewing the organization's past financial performance, it was also noted that total deposits, loans and assets have also reached historically high levels.

In commenting on the company's earnings performance, Alvin R. Clements, president, said, "Our earnings increase is attributable to growth in our loan portolio, our ability to control non-interest expenses, and a reduction in the provision for loan losses made possible by the improved quality of our loan portfolio."

Net operating income for 1977 was $5,782 million or $2.18 per share, up 18.5% per share from $4,736 million or $1.84 per share in 1976. With the recognition of a $0.770 million extraordinary tax credit, net income climbed to $6.535 million or $2.48 per share from $5,218 million or $2.04 per share for the preceding year. This represents a 21.6% growth in earnings per share during 1977.

Fourth quarter net operating income rose by 18.8% per share to $1,557 million or $0.57 per share from $1,227 million or $0.48 per share for the same quarter in 1976. Net income for the quarter ended December 31, 1977 was $1.260 million or $0.45 per share compared to $1,272 million or $0.50 per share for the fourth quarter of the previous year. This decline in net quarterly earnings results from a decision to take securities losses in response to changing market conditions. It is expected that the sale of these securities will position the company in 1978 to further improve the yield on its investment portfolio.

This earnings growth has been supported by record levels of total deposits and loans. Actual total deposits at year end 1977 stand at $821.2 million, an increase of 9.9% over $747.5 million for 1976. A corresponding 15.6% growth in loan demand has resulted in total loans at year end 1977 of $592.9 million compared to $512.8 million for the preceding year.

The total assets of Fidelity American were $967.6 million by year end 1977, another historical high for the company. This level of assets represents an 8.3% annual growth rate from $893.6 million for 1976.

While registering record earnings during 1977, the company was also able to strengthen its loan loss position. The valuation reserve for possible loan losses, which had stood at $5.0 million at year end 1976, has increased to $6.4 million by the end of 1977. A favorable experience in reducing net loan charge-offs has enabled the company to substantially strengthen its valuation reserve to 1.08% of loans at year end. In addition, loans on which interest is not being accrued have decreased 33.9% from $5.9 million at the end of 1976 to $3.9 million for 1977.

Clements also commended the management and staff for continuing their successful efforts to control non-interest expenses. He stated that he was optimistic for Fidelity American's prospects during 1978.

Fidelity American Bankshares is a Lynchburg based, milti-bank holding company serving Virginia through 15 bank affiliates with 81 offices and 8 non-bank affiliates. It recently announced plans to form a bank holding company with Central National Corporation of Richmond. The new company will have 123 banking offices and total assets of approximately $1.5 billion.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PROPOSED HIGHWAY PROJECT
ROUTE 621 - BUCKINGHAM COUNTY

All interested persons are advised that the State Highway and Transportation Commission of Virginia is hereby indicating its willingness to hold a Combined Location and Design Public Hearing concerning the proposed construction of a bridge and necessary approaches over Willis River, on Route 621, in Buckingham County. This project is located in the southern portion of the county, just east of Route 15.

Maps, drawings, and other information concerning the proposed project are available for public review and copying in the Department of Highways and Transportation District Office located on Route 501 just south of Route 460 in Lynchburg and in its Residency Office located on Route 629 just south of Route 15 in Dillwyn.

Any interested citizen from the communities affected by this route may request that a Public Hearing be held by sending a written request to Mr. E. K. Hinman, Jr., Resident Engineer, Virginia Department of Highways and Transportation, Box 10, Dillwyn, Virginia, 23936, on or before February 10, 1978. In the event such a request is received, a further notice of the time and place of the hearing will be posted.

State-Highway and Transportation Commission of Virginia

PAMPLIN

Our sympathy extended to the family of Mrs. Calvin Ranson.

Miss Emily Williams left Sunday the 22nd for Fairfax after an extended Christmas vacation.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Southern of Norfolk, Mrs. C. V. Wingfield and Mrs. Earl Smith visited John Wood in Montgomery Hospital in Blacksburg last Monday.

I guess everyone has some doubts as to anyone winning the sweepstakes as there are so many in the mail. I wrote to one of the winners in the Readers Digest and this is her reply: Dear Mrs. Caldwell: Thank you for your card and kind words. I can assure you I had some doubts for 10 years. Then we won the grand prize and received the check for $24,000. no strings attached. It's for real and it is still hard to believe. We are so thankful and wish the same for you. Sincerely - Mrs. Gwen Warren, Altus, Okla.

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Green Giant Whole Kernal & Cream style Golden Corn 17 Oz. Can 3/$1.00

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Argo Sweet Peas 17 Oz. Can 4/$1.00

Martha White FLOUR All-purpose & Self-rising 5 Lb. Bag 69¢

Richfood Grape Jelly 2 Lb. Jar 79¢

Ivory Soap Personal Size- 4 Bar Package 2/$1

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